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Washington Whispers.

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It took a lot of backstage sweating and straining to get those aerial photographs of Caribbean military installations ready for the President's TV speech. White House public-relations experts had to block attempts by national-security officials to attach Pentagonese labels to Soviet-style structures—such as “revetted hard stands” for underground airplane hangars.

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Some U.S. officials worry that the invasion of Nicaragua by American-backed guerrillas from Honduras may backfire badly. They fear failure could solidify the Marxist regime for years—as the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba strengthened Fidel Castro.